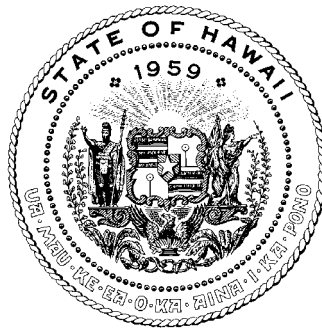


Report to the Twenty-Second Legislature
Regular Session of 2003

on

**THE DEVELOPMENT OF A MASTER PLAN
FOR POHOIKI BOAT RAMP**



Prepared by the
Department of Land and Natural Resources
Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation
State of Hawaii

in response to
Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 118, Senate Draft 1
Regular Session of 1999

December 2002

**ANNUAL REPORT TO THE
TWENTY-SECOND STATE LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION 2003
ON
THE DEVELOPMENT OF A MASTER PLAN
FOR POHOIKI BOAT RAMP**

This report is submitted in response to Senate Concurrent Resolution (SCR) No. 118, Senate Draft (SD) 1, Regular Session of 1999, REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO WORK IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE COUNTY OF HAWAII AND ALL CONCERNED PARTIES TO DEVELOP A MASTER PLAN FOR KEEPING POHOIKI BOAT RAMP SAFE AND CLEAN NOW AND IN THE FUTURE.

I. BACKGROUND

The subject Concurrent Resolution was introduced and adopted during the Regular Session of 1999 in response to community concerns over the potentially dangerous conflicts between boat launching activities at Pohoiki Boat Ramp and other recreational activities taking place within Issac Hale Beach Park. Although the Pohoiki Boat Ramp is owned and maintained by the State, it is physically located within Issac Hale Beach Park that is operated and maintained by the County of Hawaii.

The primary factors that contribute to congestion and heavy use by conflicting activities are (1) the Pohoiki Boat Ramp provides the closest boating access to the rich, off-shore fishing grounds of the southeast coast of the Island of Hawaii; and (2) Issac Hale Beach Park is the only remaining beach park facility in the area that is available to local residents following the destruction of Kaimu Beach Park, Harry K. Brown Beach Park and Kalapana Beach Park by the 1992 lava flow.

The subject Concurrent Resolution requested the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) submit annual progress reports to the Legislature until a master plan is developed for Pohoiki boat ramp that is acceptable to all concerned parties.

II. STATUS REPORT

DLNR's previous reports to the Twenty-First Legislature summarized discussions with the County of Hawaii Department of Parks and Recreation regarding its Master Plan for the proposed addition to Issac Hale Beach Park, and described how the County's planned improvements were expected to help relieve some of the congestion in the immediate vicinity of the boat ramp. 2002 report to the Legislature also described DLNR's efforts to obtain the necessary funding to develop the master plan requested by

SCR No. 118, SD1. A copy the report to the Twenty-First State Legislature, Regular Session of 2002 is attached for ready reference.

The State Budget passed by the Twenty-First Legislature (Act 177, Session Laws of Hawaii 2002) included a capital improvement project in the amount of \$800,000 for plans, design and improvements to Pohoiki Boat Ramp. Of this amount, \$200,000 will be provided by the State and \$600,000 will be federal matching funds from the Sportfish Restoration Account of the Aquatic Resources Trust Fund.

Governor Benjamin J. Cayetano approved the release of funds for this project on November 29, 2002. A copy of the Governor's approval is also attached for reference. The firm of Wilson Okamoto & Associates, Inc., has been selected to perform the planning and design of the improvements. Execution of the planning and design contract is expected to be completed prior to the end of February, 2003.

The Department plans to schedule an information meeting with the community prior to the end of the third quarter, Fiscal Year 2003. The purpose of the meeting will be to obtain community input and suggestions on how best to integrate the improvements proposed for this project with the existing infrastructure and facilities at Issac Hale Beach Park, and the County of Hawaii's planned improvements to the addition to the Park, in a manner that will best accomplish the purpose and intent of SCR No. 118, SD1, Regular Session of 1999, within the funds available.

Attachments

**ANNUAL REPORT TO THE TWENTY-FIRST STATE LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION 2002
ON
THE DEVELOPMENT OF A MASTER PLAN
FOR POHOIKI BOAT RAMP**

This report is submitted in response to Senate Concurrent Resolution (SCR) No. 118, Senate Draft. 1, Regular Session of 1999, REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO WORK IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE COUNTY OF HAWAII AND ALL CONCERNED PARTIES TO DEVELOP A MASTER PLAN FOR KEEPING POHOIKI BOAT RAMP SAFE AND CLEAN NOW AND IN THE FUTURE.

I. BACKGROUND

The subject Concurrent Resolution was introduced and adopted during the Regular Session of 1999 in response to community concerns over the potentially dangerous conflicts between boat launching activities at Pohoiki Boat Ramp and other recreational activities taking place within Issac Hale Beach Park. Although the Pohoiki Launch Ramp is owned and maintained by the State, it is physically located within Issac Hale Beach Park that is operated and maintained by the County of Hawaii.

The primary factors that contribute to congestion and heavy use by conflicting activities are (1) the Pohoiki Launch Ramp provides the closest boating access to the rich, off-shore fishing grounds of the southeast coast of the island of Hawaii; and (2) Issac Hale Beach Park is the only remaining beach park facility in the area that is available to local residents following the destruction of Kaimu Beach Park, Harry K. Brown Beach Park and Kalapana Beach Park by the 1992 lava flow.

The subject Concurrent Resolution requested the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) submit annual progress reports to the Legislature until a master plan is developed for Pohoiki boat ramp that is acceptable to all concerned parties. A copy of SCR No. 118, 1999, is attached for ready reference.

III. STATUS REPORT

The DLNR's report to the Twenty-First Legislature, Regular Session of 2001, reported that the County of Hawaii Department of Parks and Recreation had provided the DLNR's Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation (DOBOR) with a copy of the master plan drawings for the proposed addition to Issac Hale Beach Park, and reported that design of the improvements included in the master plan was underway.

The DLNR is pleased to note that the preliminary plans for development of the first phase of the expansion to Issac Hale Beach Park includes several improvements in the immediate vicinity of the launch ramp. These improvements are expected to be instrumental in alleviating many of the conflicts between park users and boaters using the

ramp facility that prompted the adoption of SCR No. 118, Senate Draft 1, Regular Session of 1999. These improvements include (1) improvements to the access road to the ramp, (2) new parking areas, including new boat parking stalls, (3) renovation of the pavilion located adjacent to the ramp, and (4) new picnic tables in the vicinity of the ramp. A copy of a section of the plans for phase one improvements is attached for reference.

Communication with the Department of Parks and Recreation, County of Hawaii, on November 26, 2001, reported that the semi-final design plans for the park expansion had been delivered to them very recently, and were undergoing final review. The Department of Parks and Recreation also reported that they expected to advertise for bids for the construction contract for the park expansion within three to six months.

III. PROPOSED ACTION

The DOBOR has not had the necessary funding available to initiate an independent in-depth master planning effort for Pohoiki boat ramp, or provide direct financial assistance to the County of Hawaii to support its master planning efforts for the addition to Issac Hale Beach Park. However, DOBOR will continue to offer the maximum assistance available within its existing resources to coordinate ramp use activities with the County's park expansion construction activities in order to minimize inconvenience to all users and avoid interference with construction efforts.

The DLNR submitted a Capital Improvement Project (CIP) budget request to the Third Special Legislative Session of 2001, which included a request of \$350,000 for major improvements to Pohoiki boat ramp and its interface with Issac Hale Beach Park improvements. Should this CIP project receive favorable consideration for funding during the Regular Legislative Session of 2002, the Department will ensure that appropriate attention is given to integrate the planning for these improvements with the Department of Parks and Recreation's master plan for the area.

Attachments

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO WORK
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE COUNTY OF HAWAII AND ALL CONCERNED
PARTIES TO DEVELOP A MASTER PLAN FOR KEEPING POHOIKI BOAT
RAMP SAFE AND CLEAN NOW AND IN THE FUTURE.

1 WHEREAS, Pohoiki Boat Ramp, constructed by the United
2 States Army Corps of Engineers in 1963, is the only launching
3 facility located in the Big Island's Puna District. The ramp
4 is an eighteen-foot wide, single-lane concrete ramp located at
5 Pohoiki Bay within the County's Isaac Hale Beach Park; and
6

7 WHEREAS, Pohoiki Boat Ramp, the Department of Land and
8 Natural Resource's sole holding in the entire bay area, is the
9 only access to the ocean for boating and swimming within the
10 county park for approximately two miles in any direction. All
11 adjacent property is owned and maintained by the County of
12 Hawaii; and
13

14 WHEREAS, the ocean access at the boat ramp is an
15 ingress/egress zone, not only for boaters, but also for
16 swimmers, divers, and surfers. On any given day during the
17 busy summer months, there could be over fifty swimmers in the
18 water while boats are entering and exiting the narrow corridor;
19 and
20

21 WHEREAS, a boat approaching Pohoiki Boat Ramp from the
22 ocean requires a tight, 90-degree turn, usually at a high rate
23 of speed, around a blind corner to make it safely to the ramp.
24 Swimmers in the water cannot see a vessel approaching nor can
25 an approaching vessel see swimmers in the water. Ocean swells
26 require boaters to "time" their entry into the channelway
27 accessing the launch ramp. A slight miscalculation could
28 result in the grounding of a vessel; and
29

30 WHEREAS, during the fall and winter months, the prevalent
31 weather can change considerably, making the launching of
32 vessels from the boat ramp extremely dangerous. The ramp is,
33 therefore, seldom used during this time; and
34

1 WHEREAS, shore resources are heavily impacted by human
2 use. The boat ramp is located within a county park where many
3 recreational activities occur. Camping, swimming, fishing,
4 hiking, barbecuing, boating, and other recreation activities
5 all occur within a small geographic zone; and

6
7 WHEREAS, Pohoiki Boat Ramp is a designated Department of
8 Land and Natural Resources Sustainability Hotspot based on the
9 public safety consideration. The simultaneous activities
10 occurring in the water pose a safety risk that demand the
11 attention of state and county officials; now, therefore,

12
13 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twentieth Legislature
14 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 1999, the House of
15 Representatives concurring, that the Department of Land and
16 Natural Resources is requested to work in partnership with the
17 County of Hawaii and all concerned parties to develop a master
18 plan for keeping Pohoiki Boat Ramp safe and clean now and in
19 the future; and

20
21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and
22 Natural Resources, if the need should arise because of
23 difficulties in negotiating compromises that are acceptable to
24 all concerned parties, is requested to utilize facilitation or
25 mediation services such as those provided by the Center for
26 Alternative Dispute Resolution in the Judiciary; and

27
28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and
29 Natural Resources is requested to submit annual progress
30 reports to the Legislature not less than twenty days prior to
31 the convening of each Regular Session until a master plan that
32 is deemed acceptable by all concerned parties is developed for
33 Pohoiki Boat Ramp; and

34
35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
36 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
37 Board of Land and Natural Resources, the Mayor of the County of
38 Hawaii, the Chairperson of the Hawaii County Council, the Chief
39 Justice, and the Administrative Director of the Courts; and be
40 posted at Pohoiki Boat Ramp and Isaac Hale Beach Park.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct
copy of Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 118 SD1,
which was duly adopted by the Senate of the State of
Hawaii on April 15, 1999
with the concurrence of the House of Representatives
dated: May 11, 1999

Charles H. Hargis
Assistant Clerk of the Senate

BENJAMIN J. CAYETANO
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

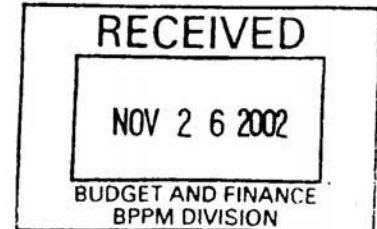
P. O. BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

REF:ENGR-EK

NOV 22 2002

GILBERT COLOMA-AGARAN
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES
ENFORCEMENT
CONVEYANCES
ENGINEERING DIVISION
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
LAND DIVISION
PLANNING BRANCH
TECHNICAL & SUPPORT BRANCH
STATE PARKS



TO: The Honorable Benjamin J. Cayetano
Governor of Hawaii

THROUGH: Honorable Stanley Shiraki
Director of Finance

FROM: Gilbert Coloma-Agaran, Chairperson
Board of Land and Natural Resources

SUBJECT: Release of Funds and Permission to Advertise Bids for Pohoiki Boat Ramp
and Loading Dock Replacements, Hawaii, Job No. B04XH71A, as
Authorized by Act 259, SLH 2001, as Amended by Act 177, SLH 2002,
Item H-21A

We respectfully request the release of \$200,000 in general obligation bond funds and permission to advertise bids for the subject project.

This project will replace the badly deteriorated boat launch ramp and loading dock at Pohoiki Bay, Hawaii. The existing condition of these facilities is unsafe to boaters and users of the boat ramp.

This request includes \$5,000 for planning, \$20,000 for design and \$175,000 for construction, to be matched 3 to 1 (75% Federal to 25% State) with federal funds under the Boating Access Program, Federal Aid Sport Fish Restoration Act.

Funds for this project are authorized by Act 259, SLH 2001, as amended by Act 177, SLH 2002, Item H-21A. As permitted by Section 133 of that Act, we are requesting the transfer of funds between cost elements, provided the total expenditure of funds for all cost elements do not exceed the total appropriations for that project.

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The Honorable Benjamin J. Cayetano

Page 2

NOV 22 2002

If the low bid is within the basic bid estimate and available appropriation, permission is requested to award the construction contract. If the lowest bid is higher than the basic bid estimate and available appropriation, we will not award the contract and notify you immediately to recommend suitable funding alternatives.

The Chief Engineer of the Engineering Division ensures that there are adequate funds currently appropriated and these projects will comply with applicable county building codes and applicable land use designations.

If there are any questions, please call Alyson Yim at extension 70259.

Attachments

c: DLNR, Fiscal Office
DLNR, BOR-E

RECOMMEND:

☒ APPROVAL ☐ DISAPPROVAL




Director of Finance

11/29/02

Date

☒ APPROVED ☐ DISAPPROVED



BENJAMIN J. CAYETANO
Governor, State of Hawaii

11-29-02

Date